THE ANDRÉS SEGOVIA ARCHIVE

GENERAL EDITOR: ANGELO GILARDINO

Vicente Arregui PIEZAS LÍRICAS para guitarra

edited by Angelo Gilardino and Luigi Biscaldi

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FOREWORD



VICENTE ARREGUI GARAY (1871-1925)

R omanticism came late to Spain, although its lateness did not prevent it from blossoming into a fully developed movement. However, romanticism in Spain coincided with the post-romantic and nationalistic trends throughout Europe, and these movements finally also reached Spain, being manifested in a series of idiomatic symphonic works.

The last decades of the nineteenth and the early decades of the twentieth centuries saw a mingling of romanticism with nationalism, and one of its last representatives was the composer, pianist and music critic Vicente Arregui Garay.

He was born on July 3rd, 1871, and died on December 2nd, 1925, in Madrid. Originally he was from Navarra, an important fact because his approach to nationalism was marked by his affection for the Basque world. He studied at the conservatory of Madrid, earning first prizes in piano and composition. Among his teachers were Fernández Graial and Bretón.

In 1892, while still a student, he wrote his first opera (Colón). In 1899 he received a scholarship from the Academia de bellas artes de san Fernando to finish his studies in Rome and Paris. As a recipient of this award, Arregui was obliged to write another opera (La Maya).

In the French capital he composed his *Sonata* en fa menor for piano (1902) and a symphonic

poem entitled Calipso. During his time in Paris, he experienced the artistic trends of the period. In 1903, he moved to Valladolid, where he made contact with the composer Facundo de la Viña.

Back in Madrid, where he finally settled, he concentrated his energies on symphonic music, and many of his works were performed by the Orquesta sinfónica under the distinguished direction of Enrique Arbós. His contribution to the national symphonic repertoire was a brilliant one, and he won several prizes. He thus established a firm reputation for himself in Madrid, and thanks to Lamonte de Grignon his music also came to be appreciated in Barcelona. In addition, he worked as a music critic for the daily newspaper El debate from 1921 to 1925, and taught instrumentation in the Escuela superior de música religiosa.

Like many other Spanish composers of his time, Arregui channelled a considerable part of his creative energies into opera. His first significant opera — Yolanda (1910) — was awarded a national prize but had to wait thirteen years for its first performance, in the Teatro real. Other operas by Arregui, such as El cuente de Barba Azul, La Maya and La Madona, were left unperformed. As befits a symphonic composer, the orchestral music in his operas is particularly noteworthy.

His symphonic output is a distinguished one. It contains two distinct strands: a nationalistic strand, dominated by the Basque influence – for instance in such works as Suite vasca (1901/

1904), Aloña, Sinfonía vasca in C major (1922) and Impresiones populares (1924) — and a Germanic strand, evident in his symphonic poems, notably works such as Oración y escena de los ángeles (1908) and Historia de una madre (1910). He also composed sacred music and string quartets.

The catalogue of Arregui's works, compiled before the discovery of the pieces in this volume, includes only one guitar piece, entitled Cuento viejo (1925). As for the five guitar works brought to light by Angelo Gilardino and included in this volume, some of them share their titles with other works in Arregui's catalogue. Specifically, the Tonada de ronda -León shares its title with a movement of the Impresiones populares (1924), a symphonic poem comprising two suites in which the second suite's first movement is entitled Tonada de ronda, León. Additionally, among Arregui's piano works are Tres piezas líricas (undated), a title which, as Angelo Gilardino explains below. was attached to some of the pieces in this volume.

Roberto Morón

Madrid (Spain), March 2003.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Por a long time, the name of Vicente Arregui was connected in my mind with the knowledge that Segovia had performed an unidentified piece by him in May 1925 at a concert in Paris. The discovery in May 2001 of a significant body of guitar music by him at the Segovia archive in the Segovia foundation, was therefore a pleasant, if not totally unexpected, event.

Arregui's guitar legacy in the archive consists of a compact set of five works (although some appear more than once), written in delightful calligraphy on poorly preserved landscapeformat music paper. The pieces, which are dated, are as follows:

- CANCIÓN LEJANA (Version 1: September 1924 - Version 2: January 13th, 1925)
- INTERMEDIO (February 1925)
- CAMPESINA (February 25th, 1925)
- CONFIDENCIA (February 26th, 1925)
- TONADA DE RONDA-LEÓN (March 1st. 1925)

As can be seen, these works were written in a relatively short time, between September 1924 and the first day of March 1925. They thus belong to the last period of the composer's life. This concentration of guitar music in the output of a composer who had never before written for the instrument indicates that the revelation of Segovia's art had suddenly and enthusia-stically captivated him. Also, it reinforces the suspicion – suggested by some titles in the catalogue of Arregui's works – that some of these five pieces might be the result of the composer's adaptation to the guitar of piano works which he had written before, and to which I have regrettably no access.

Be that as it may, the author's concern over the suitability of his writing for Segovia is evident. This concern extends to the point of providing two versions of Canción lejana and two copies (identical in their musical contents) of Campesina. The two manuscripts of the latter bear the same date (Madrid Fevrero 25 1925), indicating - I presume - the date the piece was finished and copied twice. However, it is curious to observe in the two manuscripts of the Canción lejana that the earlier version (dated Valladolid Shre 1924) is in several details much more properly written for the guitar than the later version (dated Madrid 13 Enero 1925). Accordingly, I have based the present edition of this piece on the earlier manuscript (that is, the Valladolid manuscript). Again, it is noticeable that only one day separates Campesina from the subsequent Confidencia, which reinforces my conviction that the dates are not dates of commencement but dates of completion, or possibly dates of transcription by the author from himself.

Another series of questions arises from the fact that three of the five pieces of the collection (Intermedio, Campesina, Confidencia) besides their respective, individual titles - bear a general title given as Tres piezas líricas para guitarra on the Intermedio, and as Piezas líricas para guitarra on the other two items. Accepting that the Piezas líricas were a triptych, we encounter a problem in establishing their order, because both Intermedia and Campesina show at their head the Roman number II, whilst Confidencia shows none. I have addressed this rather confusing arrangement in what seems to me the simplest way, by retaining the individual title of each piece and by extending - not unreasonably, I hope - the general title Piezas *líricas* to cover the whole collection of five pieces. As for the sequence of the five pieces, I have followed their chronological order.

Clearly, in the whole of the repertoire of original guitar music written for Segovia by twentieth-century composers, this collection shows the hand of an old-fashioned Spanish romantic composer, with one ear on the intimate parlour music of the time and the other on the echoes of popular music coming from countryside. I do not know which of these five pieces Segovia tried out in concert in May 1925, but I would bet it was Campesina.

As is customarily in this series, the original manuscripts are reproduced here in facsimile.

Many thanks to Allan Clive Jones for his assistance.

Angelo Gilardino Vercelli (Italy), April 2003.



Vicente Arregui PIEZAS LÍRICAS

para guitarra

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CANCIÓN LEJANA

para guitarra



ppp a capricho

rit. - - - - - assai





INTERMEDIO

para guitarra









CAMPESINA

para guitarra







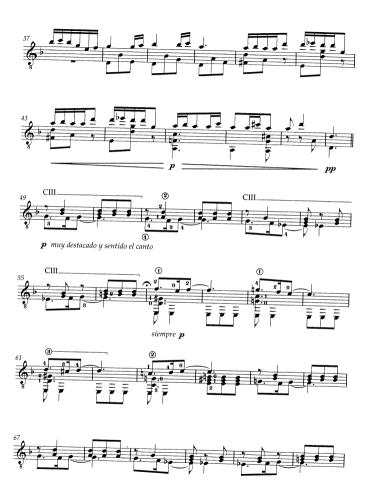




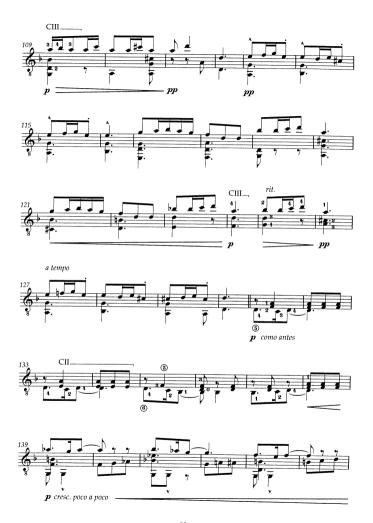
CONFIDENCIA

para guitarra











TONADA DE RONDA - LEÓN

para guitarra







y destacando el canto







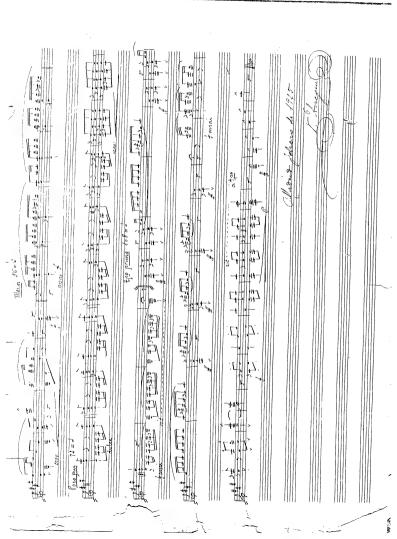




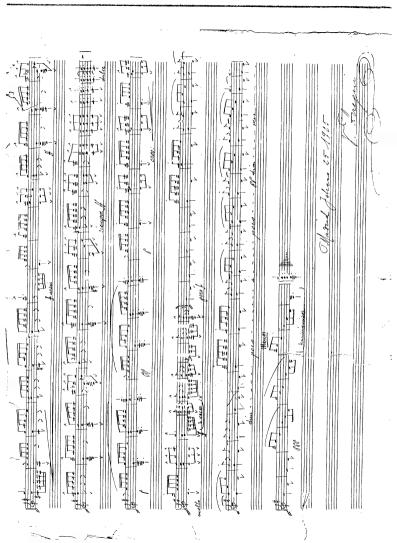


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